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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers front-paged an announcement by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport that average land prices in the nation's three largest cities Q Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya Q had as of July 1 risen 0.4 percent in residential areas and 3.6 percent in commercial areas compared with the previous year, the first such rise since 1990.

[¶1](#). "North Korean Nuclear Program: Sanctions Will Only Continue" The moderate Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (9/19): "...It has been one year since North Korea pledged in a joint statement at the six-party talks to abandon its nuclear program. However, Pyongyang has since refused to even attend the talks, making progress on the nuclear issue more elusive than ever. During their summit in Washington, President Bush and South Korean President Roh agreed on the need for a peaceful solution to the DPRK's nuclear and missile issues and to cooperate toward a quick resumption of the six-party talks....

[¶2](#). "The biggest reason for the standstill is, of course, the US financial sanctions imposed on North Korea one year ago.... These sanctions have dealt a major blow to an economy that was already on the brink of collapse.... Citing the sanctions, Pyongyang has refused to come back to the talks and also shot off seven ballistic missiles in early July, including an intermediate-range Taepodong-[¶2](#). The response from the international community was reflected in a UNSC resolution condemning the launches that was passed unanimously.... North Korea's saber-rattling diplomacy no longer works.... Pyongyang needs to realize that returning to the six-party talks is the only way out of the current impasse."

SCHIEFFER